**3. Risky play policy**

Fantail Nature School believes that tamariki need the opportunity to take risks and set their own challenges safely. We trust that, with guidance from experienced Kaiako, they can make sensible decisions regarding appropriate and safe use of tools and around fire and fire lighting materials. We believe in creating a safe environment to facilitate skilled use of suitable tools which will allow children to manage their forest environment appropriately.

1. **Fire learning.**

Tamariki will have the opportunity to learn all aspects regarding making and using fire in the bush. They will gather the wood and kindling, learn to cut it, different ways of setting a fire for different purposes, how to light it with a steel flint, various ways of cooking over it, use of fire to dry clay pots, etc, and how to extinguish it. All aspects of fire safety and national fire service guidelines will be covered.

**Procedures:**

* 1. The fire pit will be checked on arrival at the site to ensure it is not hot. This will be done and modelled by a Kaiako. Tamariki may help with this once they are experienced and competent.
  2. A bucket of water must be always on hand while the fire is lit.
  3. Always wear closed shoes around the fire pit.
  4. A kaiako or other supervising adult must be always around the fire pit when lit.
  5. Only tamariki who are lighting the fire or cooking over it will be within the concrete fire area.
  6. Tamariki will be taught safe ways to build, light, add wood to, cook on and walk around the fire.
  7. A Kaiako is to supervise the building and lighting of the fire.

1.8 No fire lighting equipment is to be left unattended and must be returned to their designated place once finished with.

* 1. The fire must be completely extinguished at the end of the session.  
     NB: Guidelines of National Fire Service must be observed.

1. **Use of tools.**

Tamariki will have the opportunity to explore the use of a range of hand tools independently and safely.

The tools we use regularly at Fantail nature school are:

Sheath knife, bow saw, loppers, secateurs, whittling peelers, hacksaw, hatchet/small axe, hammers, mallet.

**Procedures:**

* 1. Tools will be well maintained and kept in good working order.
  2. Tools will be kept in their designated space when not in use.
  3. Tamariki will wear appropriate gloves when using the tools
  4. Tools will be used for their intended purpose only.
  5. Use of tools must be age appropriate.
  6. Suitability of each tamariki to use tools is up to the discretion of the kaiako.
  7. Kaiako will demonstrate correct use of each tool before each use.
  8. No more than three tamariki at a time to use the sheath knives for whittling. Tamariki must be always sitting when using the sheath knife unless it is to return the knife to its cover and then the designated space.
  9. Until tamariki are deemed competent in the use of tools, they must be sitting within arm’s reach of a Kaiako. (Individual Tamariki will have guidance for each tool until kaiako deem them competent to use them independently.)
  10. Closed shoes when using all tools.